

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and following comments is courteously solicited.

Independent claims 5 and 6 have been amended and new dependent claims 11-15 have been added. It is submitted that all of the claims as currently amended, namely, claims 5-15, patentably define over the art of record for the reasons set forth hereinbelow.

US Patent 5,806,552 describes a cartridge-type valve being capable to reverse the flow of the hot and cold water. The valve has an adapter 50 and a housing 10. According to '552, the adapter gasket is constructed and arranged in a way that it can be turned over from the first position into a second position. This means that the flow pass of the hot and cold water can be reversed. The valve described in the '552 patent can be used for one function only. Namely by changing the positions the flow of the hot and cold water can be reversed. All the embodiments of the description of the '552 refer to the reverse possibilities. When changing the function of the valve in '552 both valve 10 and adapter 50 have to be changed.

In the present invention as claimed at least three different insertion pieces can be received in the connection element of the cartridge casing. Only the insertion piece 10 has to be changed and neither cartridge casing 3 nor the base 9 have to be changed. Figure 5 of the present invention shows the standard insertion piece 10, Fig. 6 shows the pressure equalizer insertion piece 10 and Fig. 7 shows the reverting insertion piece 10.

In rejecting previously submitted claims 5-8 the examiner has used the above described '552 patent and has stated in addition that it would be an obvious expediency to have three of the

elements 80 in a repair kit. Independent claims 5, 6 and 8 all require "different insertion pieces". Even assuming for the sake of argument that the examiner's position of obvious expediency is correct, there is still no teaching of providing a cartridge casing having a connection element which is capable of receiving three different insertion pieces. Accordingly, the rejection of amended claims 5-8 based on the '552 patent is untenable.

The secondary reference, US 4,804,011 is the simplest embodiment for a reverse function mixing valve. The joint means mounted to the bottom can be rotated in two different positions to cause the communication of the supply inlets to be inverted. Bottom 19 of this description corresponds to base 9 of the present invention. The whole valve has to be disassembled and assembled again in order to change the function of the valve. The description does not involve any teaching of other functions except the reversion.

Thus, both cited references refer to a valve being able to a reverse function. Neither of them involves embodiments and teaching regarding the pressure equalizer. According to the invention you have three difficult possibilities to change the function of the valve by changing the insertion piece 10 only. The advantage of the invention lies in the simple mode of changing the function. Since insertion piece 10 has to be changed only, the other sealing elements of the valve remain untouched. Owing to this feature the life-time of the valve greatly increases.

The final reference cited by the examiner is the Orlandi et al. reference and this document is cited against claims 5-10 under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated. It is respectfully submitted that the examiner's rejection is in error. In the mixer valve of the '416 document there are two insertion pieces in the mixer

valve, one for hot water and one for cold water. The insertion pieces are not replaceable or exchangeable. Both insertion pieces are necessary in order to get hot and cold water. In the present invention the hot and cold water function has been prepared in a single insertion piece. There are three different insertion pieces as noted above. In the '416 patent there is no ability to insert different insertion pieces to obtain different functions. Only one set of insertion pieces are provided for in the '416 and this set must be used together in order to obtain hot and cold running water. The teaching of the '416 document is totally different from that of the present invention. It should be noted that the claims set forth that the "cartridge casing is formed with a connection piece for receiving an interchangeable insertion piece". The insertion piece (singular) is selected from at least three different insertion pieces. Thus the cartridge casing contains only a single insertion piece. This is totally different from the teachings of the '416.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that all of the claims as pending patentably define over the art of record and an early indication of same is respectfully requested.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

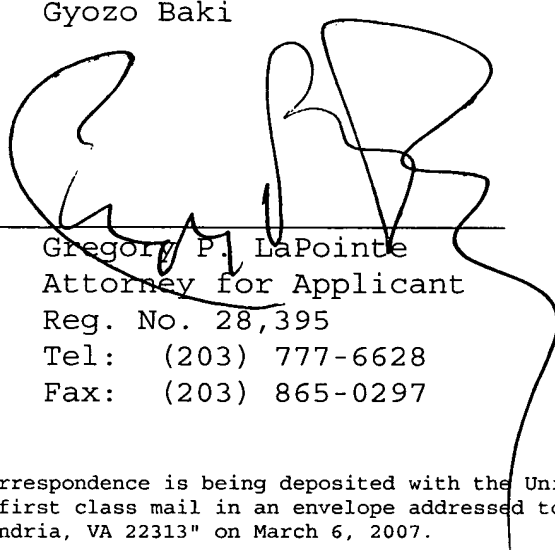
It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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I, Rachel Piscitelli, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:  
"Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on March 6, 2007.

